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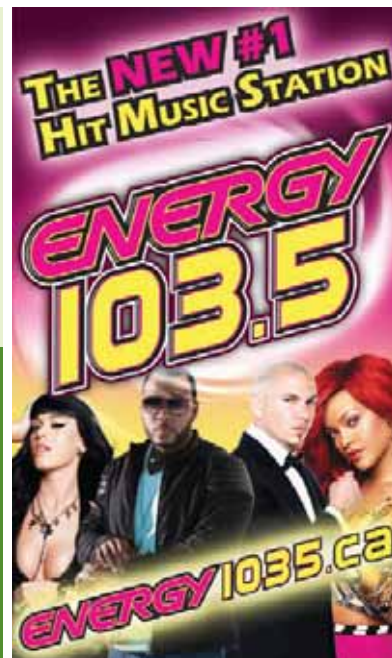
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**JUSTICE DENIES
OFFICIAL PUTS SALE OF
ST. PAT'S-ALEXANDRA
ON HOLD** {page 7}



**REBOUND
ROOKIE
PICKING UP
PRODUCTION**

{page 31}



HALIFAX

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Weekend,
February 3-5, 2012
www.metronews.ca



News worth
sharing.

Sides digging in their heels

► First day of transit strike and no sign of HRM or union budging from positions ► Council open to discussions on making Access-A-Bus an essential service: Mayor ► Firefighters drop off coffee to the striking workers

It's a stalemate as both sides of the transit strike continue to butt heads.

On one side, Metro Transit is asking the union to take its final offer straight to the membership for a vote. And on the other, the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 508 said they want to go back to the bargaining table to work out a deal.

"We're 100 per cent behind our negotiating team," said Mayor Peter Kelly. "We believe we had a strong proposal that we're asking them to take back to their membership."

There were two options in the final offer: one containing rostering — which would prevent transit drivers from picking their own shifts — and the other without, which was a big issue for the union. The dollar figure HRM is putting on rostering is \$500,000 to \$1 million.

When asked why not take it to a vote, Shane O'Leary, vice-president of Local 508, said they already did. "Because we've already brought their original proposal (to a vote) and we have a 98.4 per cent mandate to make the decision ourselves," he said.

Let's make a deal

The two deals offered by HRM:

- **With rostering:** Wage increase of one per cent in the first year, three per cent in the second year, two per cent in the third year.
- **Without rostering:** Wage increase of 0.5 per cent in the first year, 1.5 in second year, 1.5 in the third year.

Ken Wilson, the local's president, said it's not about the wages, just the three big issues — which are now off the table — and the 70 concessions HRM won't budge on. He's prepared to give up some, but not all.

Wilson said it's hard to predict the strike's duration.

"That lasted five weeks and was in June. Gas wasn't \$1.30 a litre and we weren't carrying 96,000 people," he said. "I'm hoping it's going to be short."

● JENNIFER TAPLIN

Commute not so bad {page 3}

Workers at the picket line {page 4}

Could strike hurt ridership? {page 5}



► Striking bus drivers Derek Ferguson and Glenda Hendry wave to passing motorists as they picket along the Circumferential Highway on Thursday afternoon.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

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Strike has little effect on roads

▶ Three motor-vehicle accidents between hours of midnight and 10 a.m. Thursday not out of the ordinary, police say



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONews.CA

Carpocalypse averted.

Metro Transit buses were pulled off the roads early Thursday morning, but commuters seem to be coping.

Although it was a little slow-going throughout HRM, most of the back-ups were relatively routine, said Const. Kathryn Willett, a spokeswoman with Halifax Regional Police.

"The two bridges did have some bottle-nose traffic, which was to be expected," Willett said on Thursday afternoon. "The volumes did seem to be higher because of the strike, but nothing unusual."

Andrew Comstock, who lives in Lower Sackville, works in downtown Halifax and usually takes the bus, arranged to carpool with a few others. He said the trip into the city was only about 15 minutes longer than usual.

"I rely on public transit ... but I have been able to make accommodations, and business is carrying on," he said. "If it's a short strike, I can manage fine."

Around 8 a.m., a streamline of people were walking over the Macdonald Bridge bundled in warm winter gear.

Elyse Moir, a student at

Keeping tabs

▶ **Extra officers.** Const. Kathryn Willett said the force won't be sending out any extra officers because of the strike, but will be monitoring the situation closely.

NSCAD University, said she'll be walking about 35 minutes from Young Street to campus in downtown Halifax.

But she considers herself lucky.

"At least I have the option to walk," she said. "Many students who live in Dartmouth or Clayton Park do not. With midterms coming up in the next few weeks, the transit strike will be an increasing hassle for all students."

Willett recommends leaving early and driving slowly, but be weary of accepting rides from strangers soliciting on social media and free-advertising websites like Kijiji and Craigslist.

If you decide to take your chances, make sure you get a description of the vehicle, the driver and the plate number if possible, she said.

"We haven't received any formal complaints in relation to those ads ... but don't get into the vehicle with people that you don't know."



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

▶ A woman walks across the Macdonald Bridge on Thursday morning. The bridge was seeing more pedestrian traffic because of the transit strike.

Cab drivers see a boom in business

It may be their catchy jingle, but Casino Taxi says the transit strike has their phones ringing

more than usual.

Brian Herman, operations manager with the local cab company, said staff handled about 10 per cent more calls on Thursday than normal.

"We're definitely seeing an increase in business here," he said late Thursday afternoon.

Casino receives anywhere between 4,000 and 7,000 calls a day, he added.

Herman said more call-takers have been called in to work, and cab drivers are being urged to work longer hours.

● ALY THOMSON

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news


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Transit staff man their strike stations

► The 750 Metro Transit workers already have schedules of where and when to picket in the coming days ► Rostering issue at heart of dispute



► Amalgamated Transit Union members respond to honks from passing cars at the Dartmouth Bridge Terminal on Thursday morning.



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Matt Pottie started working at Metro Transit just over two weeks ago, but the rookie was waving the union flag proudly at the Dartmouth Bus Terminal on Thursday morning.

"It's going pretty good. Traffic's pretty backed up. Everyone's feeling pretty good here though," he said.

Drivers were supportive, but many people who had to walk to work were disgruntled, he said.

"You hear that?" said bus

driver Nathan Clark, referring to the multitude of beeping car horns. "That's been going on all morning."

Clark, operating on less than two hours sleep, said he was truly shocked to hear in the early morning hours Thursday that transit workers were going on strike.

"From what we were being told the last minute negotiations weren't negotiations, it was take it or leave it. I can't understand it — why let the citizens go through all this?" he said.

Rostering, a method of

"Peter Kelly has a ride, do you?"

WRITTEN ON A SIGN HANGING AROUND NATHAN CLARK'S NECK ON THURSDAY.

scheduling shifts, is one of the last remaining big issues and Clark said it is a big deal for drivers. In the current system, Clark, who has worked at Metro Transit for two years, said he could get his weekends off in another two or three years.

"If rostering comes into effect, I could be 45 before I get weekends and I'm 26 now."

Nobody on the picket line knows how long the strike will last but many are digging in.

"We're all kind of bracing for something long but I don't think anybody wants that, us or them. We don't really know how long it's going to last," Clark said.

"I wonder how I'm going to pay my bills, but Ken (Wilson, union president) and the whole executive has let us know the potential for what they're offering and, from what we've been told, it would really mess us up."

HRM considers easing downtown parking laws

HRM staff is looking into a request to ease up issuing parking tickets downtown during the transit strike.

Parking downtown was tricky at times Thursday, said Downtown Coun. Dawn Sloane, who made the request to staff. She said several people were parking in loading zones and tickets were issued accordingly.

"Don't park illegally. Period. Exclamation point," Sloane said. "Just because there's a bus strike does not mean you have the full reign of the road."

Staff will also be looking into finding more parking spaces and how to relieve the congestion.

"It's understandable people are upset and are trying



► Coun. Dawn Sloane

to find any means possible to get around and that is fine, but there's a reason we have laws," Sloane said.

Staff outside the IWK lot were handing leaflets to motorists asking that only patients, family and staff park there. But Nick Cox, IWK spokesman, said it was a typical Thursday in terms of volume.

● JENNIFER TAPLIN/
WITH FILES FROM ALY THOMSON

PREMIER DEXTER

Province plans to stay out of strike

Premier Darrell Dexter said his government will not intervene in Halifax's transit strike.

Dexter told reporters on Thursday the issue is between HRM and the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 508, which represents over 700 transit workers.

"I'm not going to wander into the labour situation in the city, I think that's up to them,"

said Dexter.

"I'd like to see them try and resolve it as quickly as possible. These things are very difficult, they're difficult on the people who work there, they're certainly difficult on ... the people who are on the buses."

Dexter said while he's leaving it up to the two sides, he'd like to see an agreement on services like Access-a-Bus.

"I think it would be incumbent on both the union and the management to address those services ... Providing that service I don't think in any way would impinge upon keeping the effectiveness of their dispute," Dexter said.

● ALEX BOUTILIER

Strike not stopping students

Students aren't using the transit strike as an excuse to skip class, a Halifax Regional School Board spokesman says.

"Generally speaking, our school's aren't seeing much of a difference today," said board spokesman Doug Hadley on Thursday.

He said at Citadel High School, Halifax West High School and J.L. Isley High School, it's business as usual.

Those three schools issue bus passes to an estimated 1,000 students who live several kilometres away, he said.

"They haven't seen a noticeable difference at all ... but (some schools) did find a number of students were arriving late," said Hadley, suggesting that traffic played a factor.

● ALY THOMSON

Man charged after car drives through pickets

A Tatamagouche man faces charges after police say he drove through a picket line at the Metro Transit bus terminal in Dartmouth Thursday, hitting two people.

Const. Kathryn Willett with Halifax Regional Police said officers responded to around 10:30 a.m.

Willett said a 55-year-old man was driving slowly down a bus lane towards Wyse Road where union workers had blocked the entrance to the terminal. When the protesters refused to move, the man allegedly plowed through and hit two men, ages 58

and 37.

Police say the driver took off but was arrested a short distance away. He is charged with assault with a weapon and fleeing the scene of an accident, but more charges could come after police review a security-camera tape, said Willett.

The 37-year-old man received minor injuries to his arm and elbow, but both men refused treatment from paramedics.

The accused has no connection to Metro Transit, she added. He is due in court on March 20.

● ALY THOMSON

Will strike have long-term impact?

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

► Coun. Darren Fisher says strike will be devastating to constituents ► 96,000 people must find other means



ALEX
BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Immediate effects aside, some HRM councillors are expressing concern about the impact a prolonged transit strike will have on long-term ridership numbers.

The union representing more than 700 transit workers took to the picket lines early Thursday morning.

That means the 96,000 people who use transit in HRM now has to make alternate plans. Bedford Coun. Tim Outhit said it could be awhile for those people to warm back up to public transit after the strike.

"I'm concerned about long-term and short-term effects of this, but particularly in the long term," he said. "It will be extremely hard on the drivers, who will be on strike pay, and,

1998

The last year there was a transit strike in Halifax.

of course, Metro Transit, who will lose ridership."

Dartmouth East Coun. Darren Fisher said the strike will be "God-awful" and an "absolutely nightmare" on his constituents.

"I've got so many resi-

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



► Tim Outhit

dents that have absolutely no other option but a bus," he said. "Taxis are not an option for a great many of our residents ... so many people who don't have family members who have cars that can give them a lift."

Coun. Sue Uteck, who represents Halifax's south end, is concerned about how her district will handle the higher demand for parking.

"I'm trying to find every available parking spot in the south end that can withstand people parking, double parking, neighbours parking," she said on Wednesday night, when the strike seemed imminent.

Uteck also wasn't overly sympathetic to the union's concerns.

"We're just trying our shifts more in line with any other transit union in the country. And they don't want it."



► A cyclist rides past striking workers after Metro Transit employees went on strike following failed talks with the city in Halifax on Thursday.

Metro readers worried about their options



Lots of reaction came our way regarding the transit strike through social media on Thursday. Here is a sample.

Via Twitter:

► @bandrews14: you make more then any other tran-

sit worker in the country, stop whining and get back to work

► @ceymonefindlay: this strike is ridiculous, i missed the first day of second semester because of the #transitstrike.

► @stephjardine87: Is NOT AT ALL pleased with the transit strike. Thanks for making the lives of 96,000 absolutely miserable. @hfx-transit #strike

► @JohnnyWheelman: now that the #transitstrike is underway, I wonder if the percentage of late night assaults will rise? Or hypothermia.

On Facebook, we asked: Will you be honking in support of striking transit workers?

► Shilo Mopar Hiltz: If I drove I'd sure be honking in support! We need transit back ASAP!! Support your local ATU 508

► Nicole Pettipas: Honking

while waving both middle fingers, yes.

► Delana Nichol: Nope don't have a car so can't honk I need the bus to get around!

► Heather Cornick: honking in support would be the equivalent of rewarding a child for bad behavior. They will be invisible to me...

► Lynn Jones: honking for someone who wants to have their cake & eat it too? LOL ya whatever

► Kyle Buott: I am outraged that HRM has allowed a

strike to happen over concessions and cut backs, not workers wanting anything new. Please tell the mayor to end this strike, get the buses going and let folks go back to work.

Halifax's transit strike is now on. Is it justified?

► Gloria Boudreau: Is it justified to make my life a living HELL? NO

► Ryan Stoyles: listen, if someone DEPENDS on a service it is not the responsibility of said service to to

"fulfill an obligation", but rather it is the responsibility of the person who is DEPENDANT on the service to take control of their life and live independently.

► Crystal Patterson: i hope they realize what they have done to thousands of people who rely on them, like me, who have no way to school or work now.

► Jenny Eavis: Isn't it ironic that if Metro Transit currently employed part-time or contract bus drivers we'd still have transit service in the city right now?



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Mayoral vote split could help Kelly, professor says

► Incumbents have an edge with information, familiarity with issues: Novack ► Mike Savage expected to join the race for mayor next week



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Mayor Peter Kelly could be the beneficiary of a divided opposition in October's mayoral race, according to a Dalhousie University political science professor.

Jack Novack said a large number of mayoral challengers for HRM could work to the incumbent mayor's advantage by dividing the anti-Peter Kelly vote amongst themselves.

"The actual dynamics will be very difficult to determine until we know what the slate looks like, and kind of take a look at what kinds of votes each of the candidates is likely to draw, and whether or not in doing so they will be allowed someone to come up through the middle," he said.

And that's not the only advantage the incumbent has — access to inside in-

formation, familiarity with the issues, and years in the corridors of municipal power add to Kelly's advantage.

"That gives (incumbents) a bit of an edge to people who have perhaps have decided within the last six or 12 months and may not be as fully informed, or for people who have a single issue," Novack said.

Kelly currently faces four challengers — cab driver David Boyd, retired detective Tom Martin, Dalhousie student Matthew Wornona and north-end Halifax businessman Fred Connors. But the most familiar — and perhaps the most formidable — of Kelly's challengers is expected to declare his candidacy Monday.



► Mike Savage

Entering race?

Mike Savage is making an announcement on his intentions in mayoral race for this fall's election at Alderney Landing on Monday at 12:15 p.m.

"If Mr. Savage comes in from Dartmouth, that could change (the dynamic) again entirely," Novack said of former Liberal MP Mike Savage. "He probably wouldn't be identified as a Haligonian and he might have much stronger appeal in (Kelly's) strongholds."

But Novack said even candidates who have little chance of winning can help by shaping the public debate.

"Elections are not just about winning. Elections are about platforms and public debate and people engaging themselves in the issues and vision about where we stand and where we want to go."

Groundhog. Day



► Shubenacadie Sam has predicted an early spring after not seeing his shadow during the traditional Groundhog Day celebrations at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park. To see how groundhogs elsewhere in Canada fared, see page 13.

SHUBENACADIE WILDLIFE PARK

Sam says spring is coming early

Despite the recent snow throughout the province, Sam's shadow was missing in action, a folklore sign of an early spring. Sam was the unquestioned star attraction during the annual Groundhog Day festivities at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, which included face painting and crafts for children. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**

School funding up for talks

Nova Scotia's education minister says she wants to meet with school boards and administrators to discuss funding.

Ramona Jennex won't say more education cuts are on the way, but points out that with an enrolment decline of 2,500 students in the past year, the education budget must re-

flect the new numbers.

Jennex made the comments ahead of Friday's release of her department's new plan for the education system.

She won't reveal details, but says the plan will present a new vision for the system.

The minister says the plan will discuss which

Education cuts?

Ramona Jennex says there are no plans to reduce the number of school boards.

initiatives are working and what needs improvement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



► Rhonda Britton, pastor at Cornwallis Street Baptist Church, uses a megaphone to speak to the crowd gathered for a rally at the former Saint Patrick's-Alexandra school last month.

Judge's ruling puts school sale on hold

► School saga now before the courts ► Hearing into emergency stay took about three hours Wednesday night



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

A Supreme Court justice has put off the sale of the former St. Patrick's-Alexandra school.

After a late-evening hearing on Wednesday, Justice Patrick Duncan granted an emergency motion for an interim stay of the sale "pending a further order of the court."

The applicants in the case, the North End Community Health Association, the Richard Preston Centre For Excellence Society, and the MicMac Native Friendship Society, are the groups who applied to HRM's request for proposals for the St. Pat's property.

The suit is over HRM's

"When I heard about the court action (Wednesday) I thought it was well deserved."

COUN. DAWN SLOANE

process of selling the property, not following its own policy and the lack of community consultation. The developer who won the bid, Jono Developments Ltd., is listed as an "interested party" in the documents.

Mary Ellen Donovan, director of legal services for HRM, said it's a two-week stay pending more comprehensive documentation on the issue. A court date has been set for Feb. 16 and at that point Duncan will decide on extending the tem-

porary stay on the sale.

Ron Pink, the lawyer for the community groups, has asked for a judicial review on the process HRM followed during the sale. He said he expects it to be several months before he finds out whether the request will be granted or not.

A judicial review could halt the sale completely or make HRM start from the beginning, and this time according to policy.

HRM is also considering making its own motion, possibly on Feb. 16, for a summary judgment in the case.

"It's the municipality's position that the process followed by the municipality is a proper process," Donovan said.

Third person scratched off HEAT list

Police said Thursday a man wanted on the High Risk Enforcement Action Team (HEAT) outstanding-warrant list contacted police wanting to turn himself in.

Officers went to an address on Maple Street in Dartmouth and took Trevor Dane Beaver into custody.

He is facing charges on two outstanding warrants, three counts of breaching a recognizance and three counts of breaching an undertaking. ● METRO

HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Province won't study Muskrat Falls cost-benefit

Premier Darrell Dexter says his government has no plans to conduct its own cost-benefit analysis of the proposed \$6.2-billion Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project in Labrador.

Dexter says that responsibility lies with the province's regulator, the Nova Scotia Utility

and Review Board.

He says he doesn't see the sense in the province spending money on a separate review when the board will do the job.

He says the board will determine whether the costs and the benefits to consumers in Nova Scotia are appropriate.

But Conservative leader Jamie Baillie says Dexter is wrong because the board would not conduct the type of study the province needs to ensure the project is viable for Nova Scotia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Clara Hughes
Olympic champion

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Let's Talk

Local man hits the jackpot

► Senior wins \$1.8 million in Lotto 6-49 ► Drugstore that sold winning ticket to receive one per cent of prize



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

For a millionaire, Rodney Henman is pretty modest.

Even when the 83-year-old knew he was holding a lottery ticket worth \$1.8 million, he kept calm, insisting that he and his wife, Olive, go to the drugstore. "She asked what was wrong, I said, 'Nothing. I won the lottery,'" said Henman in a statement released on Thursday by the Atlantic Lottery Corp.

A trip to nearby Passage Pharmasave in Eastern Passage would seal the deal: He won the Jan. 28 Lotto 6-49 draw, matching all six



► Rodney Henman with his cheque.

numbers.

"I've been playing Lotto 6-49 since it started, but this is my first big win," he said.

He said he hasn't made any plans for the money, but did say he would like his children to have a "solid financial structure" and his

grandchildren to receive a good education, the release said.

"I do think we'll have a big splash on our 50th wedding anniversary in June," said Henman. "The events of the weekend will certainly help."

New. Location



► Work continues on the new location of The Chickenburger on Queen Street in downtown Halifax.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Chickenburger gets a new roost

The company announced Thursday it's planning to open its third restaurant on March 10, the 72nd anniversary of the original Bedford location.

2,400

The minimum fine the 16-year-old faces is \$2,400.

Teen loses licence

Police say a 16-year-old teen is facing a charge of stunt-driving after being clocked at 158 km/h in a 100 km/h zone on Highway 102 in

Lower Sackville on Wednesday. The driver's vehicle has been seized for seven days, along with his licence. ● METRO



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Appetite for Change at MetroTransit

Public transit costs in HRM are primarily funded in two ways: fare boxes and tax rates. Cost containment measures are vital to our ability to provide the kind of high-calibre, sustainable, and reliable service the public expects – now and into the future.

We have well-trained, well-paid transit operators who contribute to the overall success of the system, but we cannot continue to allow our employees to pick their shifts like you pick your lunch in a cafeteria; one item at a time until the tray is full, leaving behind the least popular shifts to be filled – largely on overtime.

Is this cost-effective?
No, especially when operators can make thousands of dollars every year in overtime.

It now takes 24 days for our operators to pick three months of work, and still there are 80-100 shifts per week that Metro Transit scrambles to fill. This is an out dated style of picking shifts, which only a couple of systems in Canada still employ.

Is this efficient?
No, especially when we have operators who can turn down work and still get paid.

We want to see our transit operators behind the wheel, not walking the picket line. But, first we need a new deal with our workers, a deal that recognizes the need to contain our costs to help build a better transit system for the 96,000 daily trips taken by HRM citizens. This can be done through changing the way we schedule shifts or by limiting our wage offer to union members.

We have moved significantly in our contract offers, and we're urging Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 508 to do the same and take our offers to their membership.



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Fingers pointed in citizenship gaffe

► Kenney blames bureaucrats for misleading ceremony ► Minister's office apologizes on air to Sun News

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney and the Sun News Network are laying the blame for a misleading televised citizenship ceremony squarely on the shoulders of federal civil servants.

The Canadian Press reported Thursday that six federal bureaucrats were drafted to pose as new Canadians for a reaffirmation ceremony broadcast on the TV channel last October.

Kenney's office had asked the department to organize the event on short notice, adding it to the 60 events bureaucrats had planned for Canada's Citizenship Week.

The co-hosts of the show, who say they were unaware of the presence of the stand-in immigrants,

repeatedly referred to the group of 10 as "new Canadians" who had "finally" received their citizenship.

A reaffirmation ceremony, however, is an opportunity for existing Canadians to retake their oath.

Kenney blamed the incident on "logistical" problems.

"I became aware that in a reaffirmation ceremony last year following logistical problems that the situation was poorly handled," Kenney said in the House of Commons.

"I regret that, but that in no way should undermine the importance and value of special reaffirmation ceremonies which we encourage all Canadians to participate in."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Alleged private citizens participate in a citizenship-reaffirmation ceremony in this photo posted on the immigration department's Twitter feed. Six federal bureaucrats were drafted to pose as new Canadians for the ceremony set up for the Sun News Network.

What happened

Documents released to The Canadian Press under access-to-information legislation show bureaucrats tried to convince Kenney's office and Sun News to abandon the ceremony idea.

- Kenney's office wound up asking the department to organize a simple reaffirmation ceremony.
- Kenney spokesman Kasra Nejatian said that at one point the minister's office had signalled the event would be cancelled for lack of participation, but that it was kept in play when bureaucrats insisted they had found 11 people to attend.
- Only three of those people showed up. But the show went on — featuring at least six federal bureaucrats.

Ombudsman calls for more rights for crime victims

The federal ombudsman for crime victims says they should have a right to attend parole hearings and get more information about the offenders who preyed on them.

Sue O'Sullivan also says the federal government should double the \$100 surcharge levelled against criminals to finance restitution for victims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MPs wear seal pins to show support for industry

The federal fisheries minister joined members of Parliament in showing their support for Canada's embattled sealing industry by wearing a lapel pin Thursday.

Keith Ashfield said the centuries-old commercial

sealing industry is important to Canada's northern and eastern regions. "Not only is it a humane and sustainable industry, it's also an industry that provides an important food source for our northern communities," he said during a ceremony on Parliament Hill.

In December, the federal government confirmed that the world's largest buyer of Canadian seal products — the Russian Federation — had banned importing harp-seal pelts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Keith Ashfield

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Romney woes continue

► A crafty canine and K'Naan are creating Canadian-flavoured headaches for Romney on campaign trail ► Republican battles bad press

A canine named Seamus and a showman named K'Naan are causing Mitt Romney woes on the campaign trail this week.

The Republican presidential front-runner may be steamrolling to Nevada after decisively winning the Florida state primary earlier this week, but he's in hot water for remarks he made about the poor while two stories with a Canadian component are also causing him headaches.

Toronto rapper K'Naan threatened to sue Romney for using his hit song Wavin' Fla during the politician's victory speech in Florida.

The Romney campaign agreed to stop playing the song after the Somali-born artist accused them of failing to get his permission, but added he wouldn't have granted it to them anyway.

To add insult to injury, K'Naan said he would, however, gladly allow U.S. President Barack Obama to use the song for his re-election campaign.

But it's the tale of poor Seamus, the Irish setter who infamously spent 12 hours in the 1980s strapped to the roof of the Romney family station wagon on a road trip from Massachu-

setts to Grand Bend, Ont., that truly will not die.

A new report suggests Seamus, who soiled himself during his stint in the rooftop crate, ran for the hills when the Romneys finally arrived at the family's Lake Huron cottage. Some wags have suggested it was an attempt to seek asylum in Canada and avoid the hellish return trip back to Boston.

Politicker, the political blog for the New York Observer newspaper, reports that two of Romney's sons have told reporters off the record that the dog ran away when they reached their destination in the summer of 1983.



► K'Naan

It was unclear if he ever returned, and there has been no response from the Romney campaign to repeated requests for comment on the story. Jane

Romney, Mitt Romney's sister, has long insisted Seamus ended up living to a "ripe old age" on her farm

in California, where he once served as a loving caregiver to a litter of kittens.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney at a campaign stop



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Eastern Europe trapped by snow

► Death toll rises as killer cold and blizzards leave thousands stranded ► Temperatures reach -30 C

At least 11,000 villagers have been trapped by heavy snow and blizzards in Serbia's mountains, authorities said Thursday, as the death toll from Eastern Europe's weeklong deep freeze rose to 123, many of them homeless people.

The harshest winter in decades has seen temperatures in some regions dropping to -30 C and below, and has caused power outages, traffic chaos and the widespread closure of schools, nurseries and airports.

Those stranded in Serbia are stuck in some 6,500 homes in remote areas that cannot be reached due to icy, snow-clogged roads



► A man shovels snow in Milan, Italy.

with banks reaching up to five metres. Emergency crews were pressing hard to try to clear the snow to deliver badly needed supplies, and helicopters were dispatched to some partic-

ularly remote areas in Serbia and neighbouring Bosnia.

On Bosnia's Mt. Romanija, near Sarajevo, a chopper thumped down in the small hamlet of Ozerkovići, where a single nun lives in a Serb Christian Orthodox monastery surrounded by just a few villagers.

Wrapped tight in a black jacket and a scarf, Sister Justina greeted aid workers at her monastery: "I live alone here," she said, adding "God will help me."

In Serbia, relief efforts are concentrated on evacuating the sick, on food delivery and gasoline distribution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daily cuppa. Politics



► A barista creates a portrait of billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov in Moscow.

SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A sweeter side of Putin

The portraits of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and other Russian presidential candidates adorn cups of cappuccino at a Moscow coffee house.

EU rules demand Assange be extradited: Lawyer

Sweden's public prosecutor was right to demand the return of Julian Assange, a lawyer told Britain's Supreme Court Thursday, saying that failing to hand over the activist would break with precedent and wreck European extradition rules.

Clare Montgomery, the lawyer for Sweden's prosecution service, struck back at Assange's legal team's argument that only impartial authorities such as a judge can properly issue European arrest warrants.

"The English notion of an arrest warrant issued by a court is very much an exception," she said.

Experts interviewed ahead of the case said the legal precedent gives Montgomery the upper hand in the trial. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Six more weeks of what?

LOOKING FOR WINTER. Canada's groundhogs say the end of winter is just around the corner, and meteorologists agree that the country's furry forecasters are predicting the end of something that hasn't even begun.

Unseasonably warm temperatures from coast to coast have made winter a non-event for most Canadians, weather experts say, adding the unusual conditions have stymied their prognostications for months.

"The one thing uniting all Canadians right now is the question of 'Where's winter?' We're almost sending a search party looking for it," said Environment Canada senior climatologist David Phillips.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Punxsutawney Phil in Philadelphia.



► Buckeye Chuck in Ohio.



► Wiarton Willie in Ontario.



► A reveller waits on Wiarton Willie.

No shadow = early spring

OPTIMISTS. Among the groundhogs calling for an early spring on Groundhog Day were Ontario's Wiarton Willie and Nova Scotia's prognosticating rodent Shubenacadie Sam, who both didn't see their shadows when they emerged on Thursday morning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shadow = six more weeks of winter

NAYSAYERS. Manitoba's woodchuck, Winnipeg Willow, is siding with Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil, who is calling for six more weeks of winter.

Willow was so startled at all the attention, she tucked her face into her handler's jacket, and failed as a result of not looking to see her shadow.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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► Sheila Nabb and her husband Andrew are shown in a family photo.



Woman beaten in Mexico recovering in Calgary

► Sheila Nabb, 37, was found bleeding, unconscious in elevator resort

CHRISTIAN DAVIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The husband of a Nova Scotia woman severely beaten in Mexico says she is slowly recovering from extensive facial-reconstruction surgery and faces a long road

to recovery.

Andrew Nabb released a statement Thursday through hospital staff, his first public comments since his wife, Sheila, who now lives in Calgary, was found lying in a pool of blood in the elevator of a resort in Mazatlan.

"The past few weeks have been very difficult for Sheila and the rest of our family. She has been through a lot and is now in hospital in Calgary, with myself and her family at her side," said Nabb.

"Sheila's injuries were very serious and she has a long recovery ahead, but we are looking forward to having her back home where she belongs."

Several bones in Nabb's



► Jose Ramon Acosta Quintero, 28, is charged with attempted murder.

face were broken and her jaw was wired shut while she was under care in Mexico. She was briefly in a medically induced coma and also had pneumonia.

Nabb was brought back to Calgary last Friday in a private air ambulance jet.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Halifax Regional Water Commission employees soundly reject employer's 'final offer'

Unionized water and sewer employees with the Halifax Regional Water Commission (HRWC) — the folks who keep municipal water safe and clean and our sewage system working — are facing possible strike action.

There are three main issues that are outstanding in this dispute:

- HRWC wants the right to assign shift work with a minimum notice of seven days, creating further disruption of family and personal life. We have had set schedules that worked just fine in the past — why the need to change this?
- HRWC wants to take away permanent work locations so they can move us anywhere in HRM — all 5,850 square km of it.
- HRWC has tabled a wage offer that is far below what has been achieved in the municipal sector in other parts of the province.

The members of CUPE Local 227 have sent a clear message to HRWC: we deserve a new contract that is fair and reasonable and enables us to keep up with the ever-increasing cost of living in this city.

Meanwhile, the Nova Scotia Utilities and Review Board noted in December, 2010 that **managerial salaries at the water commission increased between 20 and 40 per cent over a two-year period.** The board found that alarming and said it would be watching for any future salary hikes.

While we view a strike as a last resort — nobody wants to see a disruption in service to HRM residents — we believe we deserve fairness and respect, something we have not received in this round of bargaining.

Fairness and Respect!

A message from CUPE Local 227



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Syria draft resolution gains ground at UN

► Unclear whether changes will be enough to garner support from Russia, which can still veto the proposal

Western ambassadors on the UN Security Council on Thursday embraced a revised resolution aimed at stopping the bloodshed in Syria and predicted rapid approval after removal of an explicit demand that President Bashar Assad step aside.

The latest draft, obtained by The Associated Press, still "fully supports" the Arab League's Jan. 22 decision to "facilitate a political transition leading to a democratic, plural political system."

But it removes a clause calling for Assad to hand power to a deputy before a new government is created.

British Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant and



► Bashar Assad

French Ambassador Gerard Araud said they expected that a final version could be ready for a vote as early as Friday.

U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice was less optimistic. "This is still tough going, very much so," she said.

Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin did not comment on the revised text

as he entered the meeting.

In an apparent effort to overcome Russian objections, the new version of the resolution no longer includes the explicit reference to Assad delegating his powers.

It also removes language calling for a new national unity government and for transparent, free elections — also important parts of the Arab peace plan.

The revised draft also deletes a paragraph calling on UN member states to take steps to prevent the flow of arms into Syria. Russia is a major arms supplier to Syria, a key regional ally since Soviet times.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza. Dissent



► Palestinians demonstrate before the arrival of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the Erez checkpoint in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday.

MOHAMMED ABED/GETTY IMAGES

UN visit put on pause by protest

Protesters threw shoes, sand and small stones at the secretary general's convoy, which was briefly held up before continuing on to Khan Yunis. The incident cast a shadow over Ban's visit, meant to draw attention to humanitarian issues.

Secret U.S. no-fly list doubles

The Obama administration has more than doubled, to about 21,000 names, its secret list of suspected terrorists who are banned from

flying to or within the United States, including about 500 Americans, the Associated Press has learned.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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MAHMUD HAMS/GETTY IMAGES



► An Egyptian protester wearing a gas mask flashes a victory sign during protests near the interior ministry in downtown Cairo on Thursday. Clashes erupted in the Egyptian capital between protesters and police after violence killed 74 people following a soccer game.

Egyptians protest soccer-riot deaths

► Police force remains a source of tension, accused of using heavy-handed tactics and resisting reform

Security forces clashed Thursday with stone-throwing protesters enraged by the failure of police to prevent a soccer riot that killed 74 people, as sports violence spiralled into a new political crisis for Egypt.

The deaths Wednesday night in a post-match stadium riot in the Mediterranean city of Port Said fueled anger at Egypt's ruling military and the already widely distrusted police forces. Many in the public and in the newly elected parliament blamed the leadership for letting it hap-

388
Egypt's health ministry said 388 protesters were injured, most overcome by tear gas.

pen — whether from a lack of control or, as some alleged, on purpose.

Survivors of the riot described a nightmarish scene in the stadium. Police stood by doing nothing, they said, as fans of the winning home team, Al-Masry, attacked supporters of the

top Cairo club, Al-Ahly, stabbing them and throwing them off bleachers.

The network of zealous Al-Ahly soccer fans, known as Ultras, vowed vengeance, accusing the police of intentionally letting rivals attack them because they have been among the most aggressive of Egypt's revolutionaries.

About 10,000 people marched Thursday on the Cairo headquarters of the Interior Ministry, which oversees the security forces.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rescue response probed after N.L. teen's death

► DND investigating alleged delays in military search and rescue ► Body of Labrador boy found Wednesday

Canada's chief of defence staff is investigating why it took military aircraft nearly two days to join the search for a lost Labrador boy who died as he walked over ice and snow.

The 14-year-old boy was reported missing Sunday from the Labrador community of Makkovik.

His body was found Wednesday on the frozen Labrador Sea, about 19 kilometres from his snowmobile. Police say snow was falling and it was around -10 C as the boy walked in the wrong direction — away from Makkovik — until he collapsed.

His name has not been released by the RCMP at his family's request.

NDP justice critic Jack



► Randy Edmunds

Harris, who has urged Ottawa to speed up military search and rescue response times, raised the tragedy Thursday in the House of Commons.

"The government is closing down rescue co-ordinating centres, and helicopters take two days to start searching for a lost boy," he said during question period. "How can a search and

rescue helicopter be available to transport the Minister of National Defence but not ready to search for a lost teenage boy on the coast of Labrador?"

Julian Fantino, the associate defence minister, extended condolences to the boy's family. "I can inform the House that the chief of defence staff has commenced an investigation," he said.

Randy Edmunds, a provincial Liberal from Makkovik who knows the grieving family, was on-board a privately chartered helicopter that found the boy Wednesday. A military aircraft equipped with heat-detecting capability did not arrive until Tuesday night, he said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Facebook public stock not just for anyone

► Shares to trade publicly in about 3 months ► Limited supply, healthy demand likely to make for high prices

Canadian Facebook fans may share everything from pictures of their meals to engagement announcements on the site, but they're unlikely to get in on its long-anticipated initial public stock offering.

It's often difficult to scoop up shares before they're listed on a public market and given the hype surrounding Facebook Inc.'s IPO, it's going to be harder for average investors to get shares at the initial price.

John O'Connell, CEO at money manager Davis Rea, says "99.9 per cent of Cana-

dians aren't going to get any Facebook on the IPO."

The company's underwriters, who dole out the shares, grant access to the biggest of Canadian players. There are few Canadians or Canadian firms wealthy enough to have an account at the American investment behemoths Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs.

"They're only going to give it to their biggest, best client and even they're going to get very, very small amounts," O'Connell said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Shares or not?

- Facebook said in its 200-page prospectus that it plans to raise an initial \$5 billion US by selling a portion of its shares.
- Depending on reaction to the IPO, the company could be valued at \$100 billion or even more.
- An initial offering price, will be determined by the level of investor interest, but it's estimated to be at between \$30 to \$35 per share.
- That would mean about 67 million shares in circulation, which scarcely covers the intense demand for the world's biggest social networking website.

Britain's oldest paper takes spotlight at Murdoch-scandal inquiry

Police are investigating alleged email interception by Rupert Murdoch's Times of London, a British lawmaker said Thursday — dragging Britain's oldest national newspaper into the broadening scandal over press wrongdoing.

The country's media ethics inquiry has summoned the newspaper's editor to answer questions about the claims.

Labour Party legislator Tom Watson, who helped lift the lid on tabloid phone hacking, released a letter from police confirming they were investigating alleged email hacking by the Times. Watson, a member of Parliament's culture, media and sport committee, had written to police asking them to take up the issue.

The letter from Det. Supt. John Levett, head of the force's computer-hacking investigation, is dated Jan. 25 and tells Watson that "the concerns raised within your letters are under investigation and officers ... are dealing directly with the victim."

The 226-year-old Times has acknowledged that a former reporter tried to intercept emails in 2009 to unmask an anonymous policeman who blogged as Nightjack.

Editor James Harding told the media ethics in-

quiry last month that the reporter had acted on his own and had been reprimanded. The paper later published the blogger's name, but Harding insisted it had been obtained legally.

London's Metropolitan Police confirmed Thursday that computer hacking investigators "are in contact with Mr. Watson in relation to specific issues he wishes to raise," but would not confirm the letter's authenticity. The Times declined to comment.

In the wake of the new development, Harding will be summoned back to give further testimony to the judge-led inquiry.

Police are holding parallel inquiries into phone hacking, police bribery and claims of computer hacking by Murdoch papers, triggered by the revelation that the now-defunct News of the World tabloid routinely listened to mobile phone voice mails for stories.

The investigation has expanded to take in claims of illegal payments to police by staff of the News of the World and its sister tabloid, The Sun. Murdoch's News Corp. has acknowledged hacking the emails of Chris Shipman, the son of serial killer Harold Shipman. It has apologized and paid Shipman damages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Workers' bonus augurs well for automaker's turnaround

Factory workers at Chrysler are getting \$1,500 US profit-sharing cheques next month, a sign the automaker's turnaround is succeeding. About 26,000 U.S. union-represented workers should get the payments, according to Chrysler's contract with the United Auto

Workers union. The profit-sharing figure is based on an Associated Press analysis of company earnings, and the labour-contract formula for profit-sharing.

Chrysler would not say how much the workers will get. But the formula in its new four-year contract with the UAW shows that the cheques will be about \$1,500. They are based on Chrysler's \$2-billion operating profit for 2011, reported on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New WestJet carrier to draw more traffic

The new short-haul carrier WestJet Airlines Ltd. is considering would operate separately from the main airline but help draw more traffic into its network, CEO Gregg Saretsky said Thursday.

The move would benefit the main network, as it would draw more passengers from smaller destinations into major hubs, such as Calgary. Saretsky told an investor conference in New York.

The Calgary company announced last month it's considering a regional carrier that would give it a presence in smaller markets where competitor Air Canada is currently the only game in town.

Air Canada Jazz provides

regional flights across the country for the Montreal carrier under a contract with Jazz Aviation LP.

WestJet's fleet comprises one type of aircraft, Boeing 737s that can carry between 119 and 166 passengers. Those planes are too big to economically shuttle passengers between small destinations. The company has called its single-fleet strategy its "secret sauce" for keeping costs low as it simplifies training, maintenance and other tasks.

Saretsky said the regional carrier would follow the same recipe, with it including just one type of smaller aircraft, likely 70-seat turboprops such as Bombardier's Q400s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kodak wants name off Oscar theatre

Eastman Kodak Co. is looking to get out of its naming-rights contract with the Los Angeles theatre that hosts the Academy Awards.

The Democrat and Chronicle of Rochester reports that the photography company filed a motion this week in U.S. Bankrupt-

cy Court seeking to end its sponsorship agreement with Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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1 Super (Ad) Bowl: The big game is this Sunday between the New England Patriots and the New York Giants, but what 150 million-plus viewers will **really** be watching are the multimillion-dollar TV ads. As for the game? I've got the Giants by three.

2 I Hate Everyone: No, not me. It's a new book by Matthew DiBenedetti called *I Hate Everyone*, which covers everything "from rich people who are dicks, to guys named Rich who go by Dick." Sounds like a book you'll hate to love. Or love to hate. Also follow him on Twitter @whatihatetoday. Sample tweet: "I HATE when my DVR cuts off the last 30 seconds of the show." Amen, brother.

3 'Destroy America' tweet: Two British friends were detained by Homeland Security after landing in L.A. for a vacay for tweeting they would "destroy America." The pair said "destroy" is slang for partying, but it was to no avail. They were refused entry to the U.S. No word on whether they watched Team America on the plane ride back to Britain the next day.

4 The River: ABC's new paranormal drama about a doctor (played by Canada's Bruce Greenwood) who goes missing deep in the Amazon debuts next Tuesday and is being called one of the scariest shows. Ever. Definitely one of the most hyped. They already have 200,000 fans on their Facebook page, and the show hasn't even started.

5 PJs go outside: With pyjamas as outdoor wear becoming a worldwide trend, clothing companies are stocking up on comfy apparel that's taking the indoors out. Some cities and school districts are trying to ban PJs as outdoor wear while others ask what the big deal is. I'm not sure how to feel about this. I need to sleep on it ... in my jeans and plaid shirt.

6 Facebook IPO: Facebook, which has a valuation of somewhere between \$75 and \$100 billion, is filing the necessary papers to allow it to go public. FB has more than 800 million users, or one-seventh of the world's entire population. When there is a Facebook IPO, its employees are going to be stinking rich. Is it too late to apply for an internship, Mr. Zuckerberg?

7 Tennis's near-six-hour marathon: In an Australian Open final that was just as exhausting to watch, Serbia's Novak Djokovic defeated Spain's Rafael Nadal 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-5 in an epic, five-hour, 53-minute match — the longest Grand Slam singles final in tennis's open era. The next time my best-of-three doubles Ping-Pong match goes to a final set, I won't complain.

8 I Mother Earth: The Canadian alt-rock band recently ended an eight-year hiatus by announcing they were playing a one-off show at The Sound Academy in Toronto in March. This week they tweeted out @IMENation2012 that "IME sells out @soundacademy 5 hrs into public sale." As they asked on their IME blog, "The question now becomes: What do we do next?" A tour?

9 My wife = 40: My amazing wife, Christi, said no surprises on her birthday. So I'm not going to surprise her at all by wishing her a happy 40th birthday (it's on Feb. 8) in a newspaper column that goes across Canada. No way.

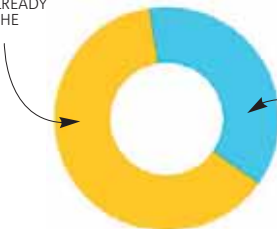
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Local tweets



► **@rosebeefe:** @may-
orpeterkelly
tweets

birthday wishes to the elderly, not a peep about transit strike. #socialmedia #fail #halifax #transit #strike

► **@AllisonLorna:** This @hfx-transit strike has the cab companies in #Halifax laaaaaughing. Campus is swarmed with them.

► **@writersangst:** Getting ready to go into Halifax and breathe in all those extra car fumes from transit site and will begin prayers for parking now.

► **@Weirdofrompluto:** I really don't want to walk to campus. Stupid bus strike. I don't even live that far but honestly, I really don't want to go. #Halifax

► **@heatherhawke:** The last transit strike in Halifax was in '98 and lasted five weeks... Good luck haligonians!

► **@evilpez4:** How many days before Theodore Tugboat goes scab? #transitstrike #Halifax #Dartmouth #fer-rypool

► **@Alex_MacLean:** #Happy-GroundHogDay ya'all....and if you didn't hear, early spring. Based on the winter so far, I'd say it's been here all along. #Halifax

Daily Zoom

Waterproof bullet



Moment bullet caught droplet

PHOENICIA, NEW YORK. Here's a shutterbug who can catch bullets! This is a stunning image by a retired police officer who has captured a gun pellet flying through a falling water drop. Dennis Havel, 63, took on this seemingly impossible task after one of his friends bet him \$50 he couldn't do it. ● MWN

"I'm not an expert photographer — it was more of a mathematics and physics thing."

DENNIS HAVEL EXPLAINS. HE USED A CONTRAPTION WITH INFRARED DETECTORS. WHEN THE DROPLET WAS RELEASED, IT BROKE A BEAM TO START A SEQUENCE IN A TIMER MODULE. ABOVE, YOU SEE THE RESULT.

A perfect shot? Get the ruler out

PHYSICS. It wasn't a knack for firearms that helped Havel get the desired shot. He had to calculate how long the droplet would take to fall 33 centimetres as the pellet was firing across. "I have a timer set so it fires the flash a couple of thousands of seconds after the drop is released," he said. ● MWN

260

metres per second — the speed of the flying pellet. After a valve has released the droplet through an infrared sensor that triggered the gun and the flash, the whole process took 28 milliseconds.

Synopsis

Daniel Radcliffe plays lawyer Arthur Kipps. Leaving his son behind in London, the widower travels to a remote English village to settle the affairs of Alice Drablow. Ms. Drablow may have shuffled off this mortal coil but the locals are convinced she still haunts her old house. Worse, because she still mourns her son Nathaniel, a toddler who drowned on her estate, whenever she is seen, a village child dies.

Ratings:

Richard: ●●●●●

Mark: ●●●½



► Daniel Radcliffe stars as lawyer Arthur Kipps in *The Woman in Black*.

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN



Richard: Mark, I really like haunted house movies and as haunted houses go, this is a doozy. It's remote, old and rambling. Doorknobs turn by themselves, faces appear in windows and there are stuffed monkeys and creepy Victorian children's wind-up toys everywhere. With toys like this to play with it's a wonder Victorian kids weren't scared half-out-of-their-minds all the time. Did this movie creep you out?

Mark: Creep me out? Definitely. The movie is a masterpiece of atmospheric dread. It's not so much about what happens onscreen, but what is about to

happen onscreen. Let's face it, there's something creepy about Victorians to begin with. Did it scare me? No, I just don't have a fear of the supernatural. And although I loved the look and feel of the film, with its peeling paint and fog that you can sense at the nape of your neck, the creaky plot, reminiscent of those remakes of Japanese ghost films of the mid-90's, did not excite me. But let's talk about the 800 lb wizard in the room, Mr Radcliffe. Richard, was this film a good choice for him?

RC: Well, once again Radcliffe finds himself butting heads with the supernatu-

ral. It's not exactly Harry Potter Meets the Woman in Black, but it's almost as entertaining and I think it will act as a smooth transition from child star to adult. He's giving people what they want, a heroic figure, like Harry, but one with added dimensions — he's a widower and a troubled soul who finds a new lease on life through adversity. A smallish gothic horror film might not have been the obvious choice for Radcliffe's coming out party, but it was a good one.

MB: I'm glad he chose a film so very British to do; it keeps him true to his roots. But if there's any doubt

we're dealing with a true star whose talents will last, it's Radcliffe's 20 minute dialogue-free set piece in the middle of the movie. He holds our attention with only his physical presence and expressions. Impressive, don't you think?

RC: He really anchors the film. It's difficult not to see Harry Potter in his face but here he takes a good stride to step away from the typecasting of his most successful role.

MB: Loved Radcliffe, loved the meticulous direction; just wished the storyline weren't so thin and derivative

Paint it black

► Radcliffe goes up against supernatural again and does a good job, too

► Our reviewers deem the film a 'masterpiece of atmospheric dread'

Scene in brief



The upcoming remaking of *21 Jump Street* will premiere as the centrepiece of Austin's South by Southwest Film Conference and Festival. The action-comedy stars Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum in a big screen version of the 1980s Johnny Depp TV series. It will screen March 12 at SXSW, which runs March 9-17.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



W.E. stars say critics being harsh on film because Madonna directed it

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Movie reviews

See it twice 🌐🌐🌐🌐 | See it now 🌐🌐🌐 | Worth watching 🌐🌐🌐 | Yawn 🌐🌐 | Don't bother 🌐

Big Miracle**Genre:** Romantic drama**Director:** Ken Kwapis**Stars:** Drew Barrymore, John Krasinski

🌐🌐🌐½

Based on a global attempt to save three whales caught in the Arctic ice in 1988, *Big Miracle* combines schmaltzy, feel-good, pro-environmental fare with a surprisingly complex, entertaining cast of characters.

As the giant mammals attract international interest, everyone from activists (Drew Barrymore) to oil executives join together for the cause. It'd all be excessively campy except for the film's self-awareness and slight hand at delivering some genuine suspense and fun. **STEVE GOW**

**Albert Nobbs****Genre:** Drama**Director:** Rodrigo Garcia**Stars:** Glenn Close

🌐🌐🌐

Glenn Close stars in *Albert Nobbs*, about a 19th-century Irish woman living as a man in order to work in a Dublin hotel. Under a tight haircut and lightly applied prosthetics, Close disappears into the meek, fastidious little creature and makes it completely plausible that Nobbs could pull one over on her bosses, co-workers and guests.

The rest of the film plays dress-up as well, with what feels like a *Masterpiece Theater* episode masquerading as a big Oscar film. **NED EHRBAR**

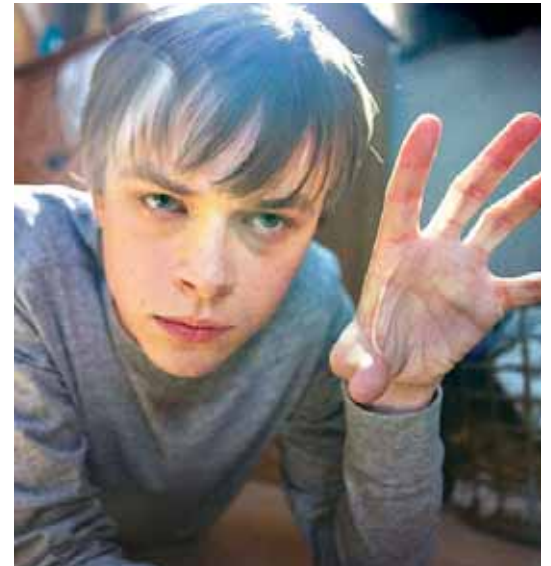
**Chronicle****Genre:** Drama**Director:** Josh Trank**Stars:** Dane DeHaan, Alex Russell, Michael B. Jordan

🌐🌐🌐

First-time director Josh Trank takes a genre that was quickly careening into gimmick territory — the found-footage/POV style of *Cloverfield* — and injects new life into it with his debut, *Chronicle*.

Of course, it helps that one of his three teenage main characters, outcast Andrew (Dane DeHaan) is something of a cinephile and obsessive self-documentarian, which means a distinct lack of shaky camerawork for Andrew.

And it further helps that Andrew and his pals (Alex Russell and Michael B. Jordan) develop telekinetic powers after a run-in with a mysterious glowing object buried under a field. Before long, Andrew realizes he can control his camera with his mind.



The story, as well, is a refreshing take on old territory — what happens when everyday people develop superpowers.

Only here, there are no spandex suits or sense of community service. Appar-

ently, with great power really comes great mischief and petty retribution. It's a much more believable depiction of teenagers' lives turning into comic books, and much more enjoyable.

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Johnson tackles franchises

▶ His latest movie role takes him to Mysterious Island in Journey 2



**NED
EHRBAR**
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

With Journey 2: the Mysterious Island, Dwayne Johnson steps into a franchise already in progress — something he's making a habit of after last year's Fast Five and this summer's G.I. Joe: Retribution. And it's a habit the former wrestler is more than happy with, as it's earned him quite a unique nickname.

Once again, you're coming in to a franchise that's already up and running. Is this part of a particular career plan?

No, it was never a career decision to join franchises. What was a very concerted decision was to come into a film and elevate it.

And I've got to tell you, this is where I've been fortunate because the fran-

chises that I have been involved with — G.I. Joe, Fast Five and now Journey — had a built-in audience, built-in success, gave me the opportunity to create a character that no one had seen ... create a character from scratch, essentially, to come in and elevate. And come in and kick ass. And I like that.

A studio executive the other day said, "You are the most legitimate Franchise Viagra in Hollywood I've ever seen."

It seems like you understand the business of Hollywood a lot better than other actors.

I think, honestly, I'm going to give a lot of credit to the business I grew up in, and that was the business of professional wrestling.

While it may not be everyone's cup of tea — understandably so — in its rawest essence, wrestling



is about entertaining the audiences without ego.... So I think in that spirit, that's allowed me to go from being the Tooth Fairy to a hunter of men.

Did you get a chance to talk to Brendan Fraser before taking on the role?

Good question, but no, we never had any dialogue.... I know that the studio came to me and they were clear in their vision for the

movie in terms of "we want to reboot this franchise and we want you to star in it." There was a lot of work that had to be done because, you know, Brendan has a certain style that works for him — and audiences love that, by the way. And the success of the first movie proved that.

But I have a much different style from Brendan, so it required some work from the ground up.

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► David Milch of Deadwood returns with an equally macho series — this one about horse racing

Off to the races

AMBER RAY
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

You don't need to understand the intricacies of horse racing to realize just how much love Luck creator David Milch has for the sport.

The fictionalized details of life at Santa Anita Park in Southern California unfold with deliberate care and nuance in the new HBO drama.

Viewers might not know how a "pick six" bet is placed, but they certainly understand that a group of down-on-their-luck gamblers have pinned desperate hope on that bet — a wager that reverberates from the track office down to the stables.

"It's an act of faith," Milch says of his throw-the-viewer-into-that-world style. His previous series, Deadwood, was equally obtuse.

"Your fundamental responsibility is to stay true to the deepest nature and intention of the materials. And that's what we did."

A powerhouse support team brings Milch's writing

to life on Luck: Michael Mann serves as co-executive producer and director, and Dustin Hoffman and Nick Nolte head the cast. HBO has already renewed it for a second season.

"You want to do your best work," says Hoffman, who plays a formerly incarcerated horse owner with deep ties to the track.

"When you're lucky enough to work with heavyweight talent, there's no problem, most importantly, because they're not afraid of a suggestion," he says. "We are given the shot to do our best work, and I'm very thankful for that."

Their collaborative study on ambition, greed and vice unfolds at a smouldering pace — that is until race time, when the series bursts into pure adrenaline on the backs of a few magnificent beasts charging around the track.

Mann and Milch are reported to have feuded over the filming, with Milch banned from the set. If so, Milch says it's only helped the series.

"Michael's work in creating an atmosphere generated an entire second level of

dialogue," he says of Mann's skill behind the camera. "[It] took a tremendous amount of the burden off of the demystifying of the world."



► Writer/creator/executive producer David Milch, left, and executive producer/director Michael Mann arrive at the premiere of Luck in Los Angeles last week.



► Dustin Hoffman

"You want to do your best work. When you're lucky enough to work with heavyweight talent, there's no problem, most importantly, because they're not afraid of a suggestion. We are given the shot to do our best work, and I'm very thankful for that." **DUSTIN HOFFMAN, ON HIS ROLE IN LUCK**



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C'mon Demi, wasn't Ashton young enough?

► Source claims hard-partying 49-year-old had her sights set on High School Musical star Zac Efron ► Another says she was mixing pills with Red Bulls

Demi Moore's recent hospitalization didn't quite come as a surprise to those who were close to her, reports *Us Weekly*.

It seems her split from Ashton Kutcher had her craving the company of a younger crowd that she wasn't equipped to keep up with.

"She's been really down, and she's surrounding herself with young people to make her feel better," a source tells the magazine.

"She's been mixing pills and Red Bulls, among other things."

We want to feel for De-

mi and her impossibly flawless 49-year-old skin. After spending the past few years with Kutcher — who, although 33, seems to only own cargo pants and flip-flops — the transition to adulthood must be tough. But moving in on Zac Efron? Too far, lady. According to another source, she was pursuing the High School Musical star at a recent house party looking "wired and gaunt."

Listen, Demi: Inappropriately hitting on Zac Efron while tipsy is my deal — and I have *The Word* archives to prove it.

● MONICA WEYMOUTH



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Only the dog can bare all in front of Amanda

Even though she's set to play adult film star Linda Lovelace on screen, Amanda Seyfried is "terrified of being promiscuous," she admits to *Glamour* magazine.

"I don't like the feeling you get when it's not something that you truly want to do, and I hate the emotional abuse you give yourself afterward. It's just uncomfortable when you're with

somebody and you're like, 'I don't really know if I'm even comfortable with this.'"

Which might have something to do with why Seyfried has taken herself off the market: "Right now I'm happy to not have someone's naked body around me. Except for my dog's," she says.

And as for those rumours that she'd been



hooking up with her *In Time* co-star, Justin Timberlake?

"I think any female that meets him at first is like, 'I want to date you,'" she says.

"He seems so perfect,

but you get to know him, and he's a good pal. He'll tell you what he really feels. But, you know, he's really famous, which has its downsides."

● METRO

Celebrity tweets



It's my first day not on the set. I already miss the drinking. I've had to resort to Pinkberry.



@CourteneyCox

Last time I did a show in Jacksonville FLA, a dude invited me 2 watch him "do donuts in mah pick up in the Outback parking lot"

@kathygriffin



@themichaelcaine

Chilling with friends and family, its what its all about. Good Luck to all of you.



@ConanOBrien

Being a celebrity means I can get any restaurant reservation when George Clooney cancels at the last minute.

Becks' naked days are over

David Beckham wants the world to know he will no longer be hanging out at home in the buff.

"My naked days are over," Beckham says while unveiling his new line of underwear for H&M, according to

Hollyscoop.

"I definitely walk around the house in my underwear. But not naked. With the boys it's not a problem because they're naked all the time but with a little girl now, it is different."

● METRO



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Forgive me, football fans. This Sunday, I'll be more interested in whether Madonna can strut her way through halftime without a wardrobe malfunction than I'll be in who wins the Super Bowl.

Sadly, televised sporting events don't call for haute cuisine, so booze pairings can get pedestrian. A balanced ale or mass market lager beer make a good fallback position for manly junk food. The fun starts when trying to find an all-purpose wine to partner with those Super Bowl eatables.

The crisp, bubbly goodness of a drier sparkling wine (think a mid-priced Spaniard) goes well with salty snack foods like popcorn and potato chips.

If you're serving a plate of wings pour a glass of white, medium dry German riesling.

When it comes to nachos, I prefer a white wine that emulates the refreshing qualities of a good brew. Familia Zucardi's 2011 Fuzion

Chenin Torrontés (\$7.75 - \$9.99) from Argentina is off-dry with a juicy blend of green fruit that ends with a lick of white pepper. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**



New England Clam Chowder



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VS.

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As a salute to Super Bowl competitors, the New York Giants and the New England Patriots, I've created recipes popular in both teams' stadiums.

New England Clam Chowder

Preparation:

- 1 Drain clams, reserving 1/4 cups (300 mL) of juice. Chop clams; set aside. Combine clam juice with bottled juice.
- 2 In pot, cook bacon over medium high heat, stirring 5 mins. or until crispy. Add onion, garlic and thyme; cook 3 mins.

or until soft. Stir in sherry until evaporated. Stir in flour and cook 1 min, or until absorbed.

- 3 Add clam juice and bring to simmer, stirring until slightly thickened. Add potatoes and bay leaf. Cover and simmer gently 15 mins.

- 4 In saucepan, simmer cream with chopped clams, 5 mins. Remove from heat. Stir into potato mix; simmer 10 mins. for flavours to combine. Season with pepper.

Beer Braised NY Brisket Sandwich

Preparation:

- 1 Scatter onions in roasting pan. Pour beer over top; sprinkle with garlic. Place beef on top.
- 2 In bowl, stir ketchup, horseradish, mustard, molasses, Worcestershire

sauce, pepper; spread over brisket. Cover and braise in 325 F (160 C) oven 3 hrs. Remove to cutting board; slice. Whisk cornstarch into water.

- 3 Place roasting pan over medium high heat and bring to simmer. Stir in

cornstarch mix and cook, stirring 1 min. or until slightly thickened. Return sliced beef to pan; toss with sauce. Serve on buns with cheese and peppers. **EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CHEF. VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.**

Shopping List:

Clam Chowder

- 2 cans (142 g drained each) clams
- 1 bottle (236 mL) clam juice
- 4 slices side bacon, chopped
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp (5 mL) fresh thyme
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) dry sherry
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) flour
- 3 potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 cups (500 mL) 5% cream
- Ground black pepper

Beer Braised Brisket Sandwich

- 1 large onion, thinly sliced
- 1 bottle of beer (330 mL)
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) each ketchup and horseradish
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) molasses
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp (5 mL) Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) black pepper
- 1 boneless beef brisket
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) cornstarch
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) water
- 12 peperoncini peppers, sliced
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) shredded smoked mozzarella
- 6 large buns, halved

Celeb spotting



Indiana — a sports mecca, yes, but celeb magnet? Not so much. That will change with this weekend's Super Bowl parties.

Madonna will be there. Alec Baldwin is hosting the NFL Honors, featuring Lenny Kravitz; Snoop Dogg, Nas and J. Cole are expected to perform at parties; and Steven Tyler and Carrie Underwood are performing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Rocco DiSpirito lightens up Buffalo Popcorn Chicken for the Super Bowl.

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Halftime shows to remember

► With Madonna headlining this year's Super Bowl Halftime Show, Metro's Pat Healy looks back at the Top 5 performances from past years ► No, marching bands didn't make the list

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



U2, 2002

It was a few months after the 9-11 attacks, and this song set from Dublin's finest did a heroic job of honouring those who died that day. It also saluted the country U2 has always wished it was from, as Bono revealed an American flag close to his heart. Criticize Bono all you want for pandering, but it's hard not to get misty as the names of victims scroll down a huge screen as U2 plays.



Prince, 2007

His royal purpleness has always been known for a stadium-sized ego. What made this performance unique is that despite performing on a stage shaped like the symbol that once served as his name, the dude did a medley of songs, only three of which were his. He touched others by Queen, Bob Dylan, the Foo Fighters and more. But, being Prince, made all of them his own.



Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band, 2009

To condense a Springsteen concert experience into 13 minutes sounds preposterous. But the Boss was able to fill a four-song suite with a whole lot of hokey fun, including a gospel choir, a flag-throwing ref, a kneeslide across the stage, some mic-stand gymnastics and the return to the stage of Big Man Clarence Clemons.



Michael Jackson, 1993

This show by the King of Pop would change the way networks programmed halftime. This was MJ just before he was accused of sexually abusing children. It's eerie now to hear him say, "no one should have to suffer, especially our children," but the performance itself was touching (not the bad kind) as he sang Heal the World, and the crowd held up placards to form drawings by kids.



Janet Jackson & Justin Timberlake, 2004

Seriously, we were really supposed to believe that Janet Jackson just happened to be wearing a metal sunburst around her areola? Regardless of how planned or unplanned the "bet I'll have you nekkid by the end of this song" ending was, the duet with Justin Timberlake on Rock Your Body definitely still holds up a whole eight(!) years later.

Untangling those Super Bowl numerals

Kids "LOL" and "OMG" each other all day, but ask them to decipher the XLVI of this year's Super Bowl and you might as well be talking Greek.

They may know what X means, or V and I, but Roman numerals beyond the basics have largely gone the way of cursive and penmanship as a subject in schools.

Students in high school and junior high get a taste of the Roman system during Latin (where Latin is still taught, anyway). And they learn a few Roman numerals in history class when they study the monarchs of Europe.

But in elementary school, "Roman numerals are a minor topic," said Jeanine Brownell of the early mathematics development program at Erickson Institute, a child-development graduate school in Chicago.

That's not how Joe Horrigan remembers it. "I went to Catholic school. I still have bruised knuckles from not learning them," said the NFL historian and spokesman for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

What's wrong with good ol' 46, as in this year's Super Bowl between the Giants and the Patriots on Sunday?

"Number 46, just kind of sounds like an inventory," said Horrigan, who is LX years old. "Those Roman numerals, they're almost like trophies."

The use of Roman numerals to designate Super Bowls began with game V in 1971, won by the Baltimore Colts over the Dallas Cowboys 16-13 on Jim O'Brien's 32-yard field goal with five seconds remaining. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

By the #s

I	1
II	2
III	3
IV	4
V	5
VI	6
VII	7
VIII	8
IX	9
X	10
L	50
C	100
D	500
M	1,000

Super Bowl Sippin'



- ½ oz honey syrup*
- ½ oz lime juice
- Dutch lager beer (Heineken or similar)
- Splash of pink grapefruit juice

Pour all ingredients, except beer, into mixing tin. Add ice and shake. Strain into a tall glass and top with beer. Garnish with a grapefruit peel over the glass. (*Cut 2 tbsp. honey with 1 tbsp. hot water and stir or shake.)

Trini Cherry Shandy

- 1½ oz Denizen Rum
- ½ oz St. Germain Elderflower
- ½ oz Lemon Juice
- 1 tsp Maraschino Liqueur
- Cherry Lambic
- Hefeweizen

Pour all ingredients, except beer, into a mixing tin. Add ice and shake. Strain into a tall glass and top with equal parts Cherry Lambic and Hefeweizen. Garnish with a lemon wedge.

Dutch Air Mail

- 2 oz Denizen Rum

Bombs Away

- 1 oz Captain Morgan
- ½ oz TY KU Sake Black
- ½ oz TY KU Citrus Liqueur
- ½ oz simple syrup
- 4 oz Hoegaarden

Pour beer into a pint glass. In a separate double shot glass, combine the rest of the ingredients and serve separately. To drink, drop shot glass in beer and drink together. Want to turn your drink into a game? Take a sip whenever a team scores or whenever a quarterback throws a bomb and it's caught. **METRO**

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All hands on deck

► Giants have everyone at practice

Running back Ahmad Bradshaw practised for a second straight day and three other players were allowed to practise without restrictions as the New York Giants completed their second workout in Indiana in preparation for the Super Bowl on Thursday.

Cornerback Corey Webster (hamstring), wide receiver Hakeem Nicks (shoulder) and special-teamer/linebacker Jacquian Williams (foot) all practised fully, according to a pool report. They were limited

Wednesday.

Bradshaw, who has a broken bone in his right foot, and defensive end Osi Umenyiora (ankle/knee) were the only Giants who were limited in the 88-minute.

Coach Tom Coughlin said the team's energy level, enthusiasm and excitement are obvious.

"They're really excited to practice for the game," Coughlin said. "I think they've done very well. This was a good day of preparation." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



► New York's Osi Umenyiora goes through drills with teammates during practice on Thursday.

5

GIANTS TO WATCH



ELI MANNING, QB

- Had best regular season of career, set NFL record with 15 fourth-quarter TD passes. Has 103.1 passer rating in playoffs, with eight TDs and one interception



AHMAD BRADSHAW, RB

- Battling back and foot injuries, but shows up nearly every week. Has more power than size might indicate, also has nice burst.



HAKEEM NICKS, WR

- A deep threat who also can break shorter passes into long gains. Uses big hands and long arms to fight off defenders for passes.



JUSTIN TUCK, LDE

- Leader of defence, has fought through series of injuries and is playing his best ball now. Can play anywhere on line in passing situations.



COREY WEBSTER, LCB

- Best cover cornerback on Giants. Could be matched up at times with one of New England's dangerous TEs.

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So you think you can dance in the end zone?

► Patriots tight end Hernandez may celebrate with merengue, hopes Giants wide receiver Cruz doesn't get a chance to use his salsa moves

Move over salsa-specialist Victor Cruz. Aaron Hernandez may need room to show his merengue moves in the end zone.

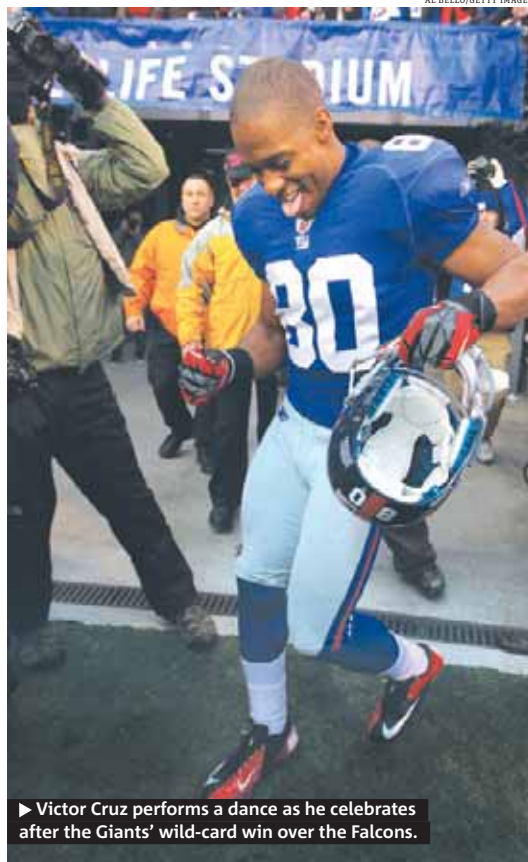
The duelling dancers are practising the steps that they hope will lead to touchdowns at the Super Bowl and give the NFL showcase the look of a hard-hitting episode of Dancing With the (Football) Stars.

The versatile Hernandez has twisted his way downfield for the New England Patriots — changing direction after making catches and swerving by frustrated pursuers on a 43-yard run playoff run from the backfield against Denver. Now he's heard suggestions that he break out the salsa should he score a touchdown on Sunday, just as Cruz does with the New York Giants.

"They told me to do the salsa and I was joking around, saying maybe I'll do the merengue," a smiling Hernandez said Thursday, three days before the Super Bowl. "But that's his style and I respect him doing that and that's also a shoutout to the Hispanic community."

"But he's a good player and, hopefully, he doesn't get too many salsa dances this week."

Cruz sidesteps the idea of a Sunday Night Fever dance-off with Hernandez.



► Victor Cruz performs a dance as he celebrates after the Giants' wild-card win over the Falcons.

"I just want to get in the end zone and win this football game," he said.

Hernandez is used to playing second fiddle as "the other" tight end in the Patriots dynamic combo.

Rob Gronkowski's left

ankle has been in the spotlight ever since the All-Pro sprained it Jan. 22 in the AFC championship game.

Before that, Gronkowski's big hands that rarely drop a football drew the attention. He set an NFL



"I've been ready to play since they told us we're playing in the Super Bowl."

AARON HERNANDEZ

single-season record for tight ends with 17 touchdown catches, usually followed by a powerful spike.

"I'm sure he'll be fine" for the game, Hernandez said. "Everyone knows he's a beast and he'll definitely be a huge impact in this game."

Hernandez, faster and shifter than the bulldozing Gronkowski, had a pretty good season, too. He caught 79 passes for 910 yards and seven touchdowns. But he doesn't mind getting less attention.

"I've never been that type of person and the way our relationship is, we're so close that we don't even think about it like that," Hernandez said.

"I'm not a huge media guy, as you know, so he can have all the media he wants. You can talk to him and I know he loves it."

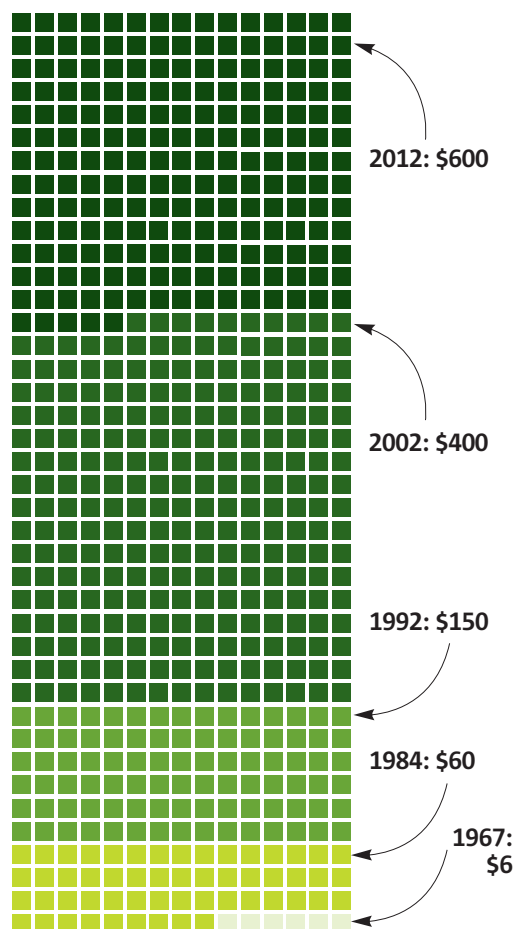
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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5

PATRIOTS TO WATCH



TOM BRADY, QB

► Most accomplished quarterback of his era, has won three Super Bowls and is in his fifth. Has career record of 2-2 against Giants.



WES WELKER, WR

► Led NFL with 122 catches, becomes second player with at least 120 twice in a career (Cris Carter). Has most receptions since 2007 in NFL (554).



ROB GRONKOWSKI, TE

► Combination of size and strength overwhelms defenders. Battling left ankle injury sustained in AFC title game, but came back to finish that game.



VINCE WILFORK, LDT

► Wilfork has been as good as anyone in post-season. Played more than usual against Ravens, who couldn't block him with two men in AFC title game.



JEROD MAYO, MLB

► Best and most accomplished of Patriots' LBs, has had some health issues hold him back. First-round pick in 2008.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Target on MacKinnon's back

► Intensity rises as Moose prepare for home-stand ► Host Moncton on Friday, Bathurst on Saturday



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

Nathan MacKinnon doesn't need a calendar to know the QMJHL playoffs are just six weeks away.

As teams start to ramp up intensity for the post-season, the Halifax Mooseheads' leading scorer at the young age of 16 years, five months, has noticed significant differences on the ice since the start of the new year.

"The game's a lot faster right now — everyone's really focused on getting better and the game's not as open as it was earlier in the year," said MacKinnon, who is second among QMJHL rookies with 57 points in 40 games.

"Now is when the real players come out, when everyone's playing playoff-style hockey."

The Cole Harbour native is just five points away from breaking the franchise record for points by a 16-year-old, set by Etienne Drapeau with 61 in 1994-95.

But production has slowed for MacKinnon since a much-ballyhooed five-goal outburst against the Quebec Remparts on Dec. 3. He has four goals and four assists in his past 11 games — with a shoulder injury and a trip to the world under-17 challenge in the middle of that —

Sweet 16s

Top 5 point totals by Moosehead 16-year-olds:

1. Etienne Drapeau, 61 (94-95)
2. Nathan MacKinnon 57 (11-12)
3. Brandon Reid, 34 (97-98)
4. Brandon Benedict, 30 (98-99)
5. Luca Ciampini, 29 (10-11)

and two goals and an assist in his past six outings.

He conceded he is likely getting more checking attention now that he's a known quantity in the QMJHL, but said another factor is his focus on becoming more well-rounded.

"I know my point production isn't where it was at (before) but it's not my draft year," said MacKinnon, widely considered a top-five candidate for the 2013 NHL draft.

"I'm trying to prep myself for next year and trying to become the best player I can be. Even if that's 10, 15 less points, I just want to become an all-around player who can be trusted in all three zones."

MacKinnon said he's found himself getting more ice time late in games with the Mooseheads leading, a sign that the coaches trust him more defensively.



► Mooseheads forward Nathan MacKinnon has just two goals and an assist in his past six games.

As for the offence, eight points in 11 games would be a hot streak for every other 16-year-old in the country. MacKinnon is taking it in stride.

"It's good prep for the playoffs," MacKinnon said. "The team is really improving. We had a slump, but we've picked it up from there and, hopefully, we can keep it rolling."

Future depth on defence

The Halifax Mooseheads have added some offensive talent to their blue-line for 2012-13.

Defenceman MacKen-

zie Weegar, a 17-year-old who has 44 points in 43 games for the Ontario Jr. 'A' Nepean Raiders, has committed to the team for next season. He is ranked 160th among North American skaters by Central Scouting for the 2012 NHL draft.

● METRO

4

sports

More sports

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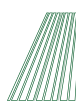
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Sports in brief

Jackets lose in Joudrey's debut

NHL. Bedford's Andrew Joudrey had one shot on goal and two blocked shots in 9:16 of ice time in his NHL debut with the Columbus Blue Jackets on Wednesday.

Joudrey's Blue Jackets fell 3-2 to the host Los Angeles Kings at Staples Cen-

tre.

The 27-year-old, who makes a pro-rated \$575,000 US while at the NHL level this season, had spent four-and-a-half years in the American Hockey League before earning his first NHL call-up this week. Joudrey remains with the Blue Jackets, who visit the Anaheim Ducks on Friday. **● METRO**

No word yet on Rainmen's referee review

NBL CANADA. The Halifax Rainmen are still waiting for a review of the officiating in their Monday night road loss to the Moncton Miracles.

Mike Homsy, director of officials for the National Basketball League of Canada, said Thursday night he had still not received the game tape to review Rainmen coach Josep 'Pep'

Claros' allegations that the officials were "inventing fouls" to "put (the Miracles) in the game."

The Miracles recovered from a 19-point deficit after the first quarter to win 102-91. Claros described it as a "circus."

The Rainmen (17-9) visit the Quebec Kebs (17-10) in a battle for second place on Friday at 8 p.m.

● METRO

Hollingsworth slides to gold in Whistler

SKELETON. Melissa Hollingsworth won World Cup gold on Thursday at a skeleton track in Whistler, B.C. that has plagued her since a disappointing fifth place finish at the 2010 Olympics. The native of Eckville, Alta., finished in a two-run time of one minute 49.79 seconds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luck ready to make an immediate impact

► 'Every competitor wants to play,' says Stanford QB

Andrew Luck is willing to learn from Peyton Manning. He just wants everyone to know he's ready to play next season, too.

The Stanford quarterback said Thursday he could co-exist as Manning's teammate even though his preference would be to play immediately.

"I think every competitor wants to play, every down, every play," Luck said when asked about starting as an NFL rookie. "So, of course, who wouldn't want to start?"

Luck spent less than 24 hours in Indianapolis, going through a battery of physical tests and learning the intricacies of nutrition



► Andrew Luck

at the Gatorade Sports Science Institute.

His next trip to the city, for the scouting combine, might determine whether Luck becomes a permanent fixture.

Colts owner Jim Irsay has said he intends to take Manning's successor with the No. 1 overall pick in April's draft, and it looks like a

Family ties

► Andrew's father, Oliver, and Manning's father were teammates in Houston for two seasons in the 1980s, and Luck has been both a student and a counsellor at the Manning's summer quarterback camp in Louisiana.

two-man race between Luck and Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III.

But there are big questions surrounding the Colts. Indy has embarked on a major rebuilding project and Manning missed the 2011 season after having his third neck surgery on Sept. 8. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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MISCELLANEOUS

Miscellaneous

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For those without a Metro, the forecast calls for "I dunno" with a slight chance of "huhhh?"



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Crossword

Across

1 After-hrs. bank
4 Mop the decks
8 Rope fiber
12 Weep
13 Zeus' consort
14 Addict
15 Nemean Lion slayer
17 Bellow
18 Longs
19 Id counterpart
21 Biblical verb suffix
22 "A Bell for Adano" author
26 Reacts in horror
29 Muppet master
30 Poolroom prop
31 Lotion additive
32 Obese
33 Jung or Yastrzemski
34 Red or Black
35 Poorly lit
36 Yuletide melody
37 Godly messenger
39 Swiss peak
40 "Live! With Kelly" aier
41 Sticker for details
45 Effervescence
48 Cohort of Harry and Ron
50 Pennsylvania port
51 Discord goddess
52 Levy
53 Pleads
54 Depend (on)
55 Suitable

5 From Cardiff
6 Is pluralized
7 Single
8 Any of the "12 Angry Men"
9 Gl entertainment grp.
10 Afternoon social
11 Blunder
16 Thin pancake
20 Jewel
23 Cicatrix
24 Continental coin
25 Holler
26 Long cut
27 Sheltered
28 Take to the skies

29 Toast topper
32 Chess legend
33 Bobby
34 Bay of Naples island
35 Society newbie
36 Oafish
38 Labyrinths
39 T.S. Eliot's "cruelest month"
42 Tittle
43 Break suddenly
44 Email alternative
45 Winter mo.
46 Anger
47 Sharp turn
49 Prior to

► Thursday's answer

S H U T C A F E O D D
L A V A A R I A N E O
O N E L I N E R S E L L
P S A L M S E M A I L
O P C O L O R
S H O W Y O U A M O K
I O N A N T E W E
D E E P R E S A D E N
H E A D Y A D
P R O W L F L O R A E
O A R O N E U P P I N G
G I S H O R N T O N G
O D E A W E D S T A Y

Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Thursday's answer ►

9 4 8 6 2 7 5 3 1
3 5 7 1 9 8 6 2 4
2 1 6 3 5 4 7 9 8
6 9 1 2 7 3 8 4 5
7 2 4 8 6 5 3 1 9
5 8 3 9 4 1 2 6 7
8 7 9 4 3 6 1 5 2
4 3 5 7 1 2 9 8 6
1 6 2 5 8 9 4 7 3

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You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

...thrills..., love has, love will, love does, love can, love it, love self, love life, love yours, love theirs, love us, love mine, crazy love, insane love, beautiful love, paternal love, maternal love, passion love, painful love, healthy love, positive love, patient love, angry love, strong love, weak love, short love, long love, flashing love, fools love. love

THRILLER

Shony baaby, Iloveeyooou lots and I am feeling very happy and lucky to wish our 2 years anniversary today <3 you are the most amazing person i can ever think of and know. I loved every moment we spent in these two years even the moments when you were mad at me and wanted to kill me...iloveyooou beautiful and you are irresistible and you make my days lighten up. .your baingan <3

BAINGAN

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20

You've done your bit, now reward yourself with a break.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21

Trust your instincts, not what dubious sources tell you.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21

You need to be a bit more realistic about your ambitions. There is no point aiming for things you cannot reach – that's just silly.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22

The only thing that might hold you back over the next 24 hours is if you let negative thoughts take over.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23

Have friends and colleagues been

keeping things from you? It looks like it, but before you get angry about it ask yourself why that should be.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Don't worry if you find it hard to get your point across over the next few days.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23

You may be under the impression that you have to work extra hard to keep up with your rivals, but is that true? Be friends with everyone and do quality work only.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Everyone makes mistakes and you are no exception – but you are exceptional when you get it right,

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca and that's often.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Watch what you say today or you could find yourself falling out with a friend or work colleague over nothing much at all.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Make sure you know all the facts before offering an opinion.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Forget about all the trivial things and focus on the two or three issues that are of real importance.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

You need to recognize that the life you are most responsible for is your own.

● SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest



CODY DUTY, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/ THE AP



AJIT SOLANKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You write it!

WIN! Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca – the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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